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observing. A few nights were very good, but from January 25th to date there have been but fourteen clear nights, and not more than one-half that number on which the "seeing" could be called good.

R. G. AITKEN.

MT. HAMILTON, March 20, 1897.

THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, OBSERVED AT GLASGOW, MISSOURI, WITH A TWELVE-INCH TELESCOPE.

[Extract of a letter from Professor H. S. PRITCHETT.]

"Saturday night, March 20, 1897, I was at Glasgow, and the night was unusually fine. I have seldom seen so good a one in this climate. With the 12½-inch glass, both my father and myself saw the *Sirius* companion (shutting the bright star out of the field). The result of three settings of the micrometer gave $p = 195^{\circ}$; s (estimated) between 3'' and 4''."

THE BRUCE MEDAL OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC.

It is the intention of Miss CATHERINE WOLFE BRUCE, to whom Astronomy in all parts of the world owes so many and such intelligent benefactions, to found and endow a gold medal, to be awarded not oftener than once a year by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, "for distinguished services to Astronomy." It is Miss BRUCE's desire that the medal shall be international in character, and that it shall be awarded to citizens of any country, and to persons of either sex.

The medal is to be of gold, about sixty millimetres in diameter, and is to bear the seal of the Society on the *obverse*.* The *reverse* is to bear an appropriate inscription. The formal offer of Miss BRUCE will be made, and the medal founded and endowed, during the present year, so that the first award can be made (if desirable) for the year 1898. At the proper time, due acknowledgments will be offered to Miss BRUCE for this very generous gift to Science and to the Society. Not only will the BRUCE medal tend to the advancement of Astronomy, and enable the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to adequately recognize scientific work of the highest class (and these are Miss BRUCE's only desires), but it will forever connect the name of

* See these *Publications*, Volume III, page 78, for a full-sized drawing of the seal.

the founder with the progressive advances of Astronomy. Those who are knowing to her very many and wise subventions of astronomical research (a few of which are spoken of in these *Publications*),* will welcome this, her latest gift, for personal as well as for scientific reasons. The Society is to be congratulated that Miss BRUCE has selected it as the Trustee to carry out her generous desires. If the trust is executed, as it will be, with intelligence, fidelity and circumspection, the time will soon come when the BRUCE medal will be one of the most highly-prized recognitions of original and useful service to Astronomical Science.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY, April 6, 1897.

RETURN OF THE LOWELL OBSERVATORY TO ARIZONA.

"The Lowell Observatory has not found the site in the vicinity of the City of Mexico as favorable as had been expected, and will be moved back to Flagstaff, Arizona."†—*Science*, March 26, 1897, page 512.

THE CAPE PHOTOGRAPHIC *DURCHMUSTERUNG*‡

In 1885, Dr. GILL commenced a photographic survey of the southern heavens from eighteen degrees of South Decl. to the south pole. The observations have been made at the Cape, and the measures and many of the reductions by Dr. KAPTEYN, in Holland. The negatives were made with a DALLMEYER lens of six inches aperture and fifty-four inches focus, and the exposures (thirty to sixty minutes) are chosen so as to include all stars as bright as the tenth magnitude. Each plate covers thirty-six square degrees. The epoch of the Catalogue is 1875.0; and the probable errors of the positions are $0^s.27$ and $2''.6$ in R. A. and Decl. respectively.

The (photographic) magnitudes are deduced so as to make the mean photographic magnitude of a group of stars identical with the mean visual magnitude. The average number of stars per square degree is 25.4, and the absolute number varies from

* Vol. II, p. 307; Vol. V, p. 82; Vol. V, p. 186; Vol. VIII, p. 243; Vol. IX, No. 55 (BRUCE Telescope, Moon maps, etc.)

† See *Mountain Observatories*, 1896, page 66.

‡ The first volume of this work (-19° to -37°), containing 152,000 stars, is printed. The second volume (-38° to 52°), containing 158,000 stars, is in the press.